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According to information supplied by Mr. Chas. F. Binns, the American Ceramic Society was founded in 1899, at Columbus, Ohio, when a small group of scientific men, interested in the problems of the silicate industries, gathered together and formed a permanent organization. Beginning with the report of that meeting a volume of *Transactions* has been published each year for nineteen years. In addition to the annual volume, a Manual of Ceramic Calculations, as an appendix to Volume 11, and the works of Hermann A. Seger, translated from the German, were published.

Clays and glazes were the earliest interests of the society but were soon followed by all branches of the silicate industries.

The growth in membership was steady but not large until 1917, when conservatism yielded before a vigorous campaign under the Membership Committee, resulting in an increase of over 200, a movement which has continued up to the present when there are 1,156 members.

In 1918 the annual volume of *Transactions* was superseded by the *Journal of the American Ceramic Society*, with G. H. Brown as editor. There has been a gratifying improvement in this *Journal* during the year and three quarters of its existence, and it now ranks with the scientific journals of much larger societies.

Local sections have been organized in places where there are many ceramists, who meet frequently for the discussion of papers and for good-fellowship. More recently Industrial Divisions have been formed for the better grouping of interests at the annual meetings. It is probable that hereafter there will be one or two general meetings and the rest of the time will be given over to divisional meetings.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. HENRY A. CHRISTIAN, Hersey professor of the theory and practise of physics in the Harvard Medical School and physician-in-chief to the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, has been granted a leave of absence from his Boston work to serve for a year in Washing-

ton as chairman of the Division of Medical Science of the National Research Council and will begin that work on October 1.

DR. AUGUSTUS TROWBRIDGE, professor of physics at Princeton University, has received for his work in organizing and directing the sound-ranging and the flash-ranging in the American Expeditionary Forces the distinguished service medal. He has also been decorated with the British D.S.O., and has been made Chevalier of the French Legion d'honneur.

PROFESSOR GILBERT N. LEWIS, dean of the college of chemistry, University of California, formerly lieutenant colonel in the Gas Service, A. E. F., has been decorated as Chevalier of the French Legion d'honneur.

DR. MORTON PRINCE, of Boston, has been decorated with the Cross of the French Legion of Honor for his services in promoting Franco-American cooperation during the war.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ELMER K. HILES, formerly of the Engineers, American Expeditionary Forces, has joined the Pittsburgh Testing Laboratory as manager of laboratories.

JACK J. HINMAN, JR., formerly captain in the Sanitary Corps of the American Expeditionary Forces, where he was engaged in water supply work, has returned to his pre-war duties as water bacteriologist and chemist to the Iowa State Board of Health and assistant professor of epidemiology in the State University of Iowa.

NORMAN A. SHEPARD, assistant professor in chemistry at Yale University, has resigned to enter the employ of the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company.

JULIUS B. KOHN, formerly employed by the U. S. Public Health Service as organic chemist doing research work under the direction of Dr. Julius Stieglitz on arsphenamine and neoarsphenamine at Kent Chemical Laboratory of the University of Chicago, is now connected with the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works as research chemist in their organic department, at St. Louis, Mo.

THE Massachusetts Department of Health celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its estab-

lishment at the State House, on September 13. Among the chief speakers were Dr. Henry P. Walcott, Boston; Dr. William H. Welch, Baltimore; Assistant Surgeon Allan J. McLaughlin, U. S. P. H. S., and Sir Arthur Newsholme, of England. The health commissioner, Eugene R. Kelly, Boston, presided, and the visitors were welcomed on behalf of the state by the governor.

DR. FREDERICK EBERSON, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, has accepted a position at the Washington University to study, experimentally, the "Latent syphilitic as a carrier." The research is to be done in the department of Professor M. F. Engman.

PROFESSOR J. E. PETAVEL, F.R.S., has been appointed director of the British National Physical Laboratory in succession to Sir Richard Glazebrook, C.B., F.R.S., who retired on reaching the age-limit on September 18. Professor Petavel is professor of engineering and director of the Whitworth Laboratory in the University of Manchester.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: M. Emmanuel de Margerie, the eminent French geologist and geographer and translator of Suess' "Antlitz der Erde" into "La Face de la Terre," has lately been appointed director of the Geological Survey of Alsace and Lorraine, in connection with the reorganization of the University of Strasbourg under French control, where Gofreaux is professor of geology, Baulig and Denis of geography, and J. de Lapparent of mineralogy. To the best of our knowledge this is the first official position that de Margerie has ever held; all his work heretofore has been done as a private individual. There is no other geologist in the world who has attained so high a rank in his science by individual effort, without support from government bureaus or university appointments. De Margerie's new address is Service de la Carte Géologique d'Alsace et de la Lorraine, 1 rue Blessig, Strasbourg, France.

DR. BARTON WARREN EVERMANN, director of the museum of the California Academy of Sciences has gone into the Olympic Mountains west of Puget Sound for the purpose of

studying the Roosevelt elk in its native habitat. An expert Pathé moving picture photographer has been taken along to get a film showing this species of big game in action in its wild state and under natural surroundings. The film will be used by the academy in its educational work to supplement the habitat group of these animals which, through the generosity of Mr. Wm. C. Van Antwerp, the academy is now installing in its museum in Golden Gate Park.

THE committee on cooperation of the Ecological Society of America has just completed a field study of the plants and animals at timber line on Mt. Morey in the Adirondack Mountains of New York. Coincidentally with the field study some of the research problems in ecology were discussed and listed. The committee included representatives of the three main lines of activity of the society, plant ecology, animal ecology and forestry. The persons and institutions cooperating are Barrington Moore, president of the Ecological Society, Norman Taylor for the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, George P. Burns for the Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station, Charles C. Adams and T. L. Hankinson for the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse.

It is announced in *Nature* that the widow of Professor Milne has decided to return to her native country, Japan, and that in consequence the house at Shide, Newport, Isle of Wight, in which Professor Milne did such important work in seismology is to be sold shortly by public auction.

EDWARD PAYSON BATES, a well-known steam engineer of Syracuse, N. Y., died on August 4 at the age of seventy-five years.

DR. A. G. VERNON HARCOURT, F.R.S., lately Lee's reader in chemistry at Christ Church, Oxford, died on August 23, aged eighty-four years.

PROFESSOR ALEXANDER MACALISTER, F.R.S., professor of anatomy in the University of Cambridge, died on September 2, aged seventy-five years.

DR. C. A. MERCIER, physician for mental diseases to Charing Cross Hospital, and a distinguished authority upon mental diseases and related subjects, died on September 2 at sixty-seven years of age.

THE death is announced of Dr. William Smith Greenfield, professor of pathology and clinical medicine in the University of Edinburgh from 1881 to 1912.

THE Bureau of Mines Experiment Station at Pittsburgh will be dedicated with suitable ceremonies on September 29 and 30 and October 1. The exercises carried out in connection with the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce include an excursion to the experimental mine near Bruceton, and first-aid and mine-rescue contests.

THE seventh meeting of the Spanish Association for the Advancement of the Sciences was held at Bilbao from September 7 to 12. There will be eight sections. The French Association for the Advancement of Science and corresponding bodies in Great Britain, Italy and other nations, have been invited to send delegates.

THE South African Association for the Advancement of Science held its annual meeting from July 7 to 12 inclusive, the first three days in Kingwilliamstown, the last three in East London. Wm. Flint, D.D., librarian of the Union of South Africa Parliament, was this year's president. Dr. I. B. Pole Evans, D.Sc., chief phytopathologist to the Union government was elected to succeed him. The outstanding feature of the meeting was a paper by Dr. A. Pyper, M.D., of Bethal, Transvaal, on "Diffraction phenomena in films of blood-cells and in surface-cultures of micro-organisms," in which these phenomena were applied for exact measurement of diameter of blood-cells, etc. The total attendance of members of the " $S_2A_3$ " (as the association is called in colloquial speech in South Africa) was over 110.

AUTHORITY has been granted for the killing of 1,000 three-year-old seals on St. Paul Island this fall for food for the natives, and to increase the take of 4-year-olds on St. George Is-

land from 300 to 500 in the current season. Killing of 6-year-olds and over will also proceed less vigorously on St. George Island, as proper proportions between the different age classes on that island are being more nearly attained. The above modifications in the quota have been made upon recent telegraphic recommendations of employees in charge at the Pribilof Islands.

PARTICULARS respecting the British government competition for the construction of aeroplanes and seaplanes on the lines of increased safety are given in *Nature*. The following prizes are offered: For aeroplanes of small type: First prize, £10,000; second prize, £4,000, and third prize £2,000. For large aeroplanes: First prize, £20,000; second prize, £8,000, and third prize, £4,000. For seaplanes: First prize, £10,000; second prize, £4,000, and third prize, £2,000. The latest date for entries is December 31 next. Sir H. H. Shephard has instituted a memorial to his son, the late Brigadier-General G. S. Shephard, in the shape of prizes for members of the Royal Air Force for essays relating to aviation. This year the prizes are to be awarded for essays on "Sea and Fleet Reconnaissance" and "Aerial Navigation and Pilotage." The administration of the annual competitions is to be carried out by the Air Council.

HYDROBIOLOGISTS and others interested in the study of bottom fauna may now obtain, made to order in the United States, a quantitative bottom-sampler as used by Peterson in recent investigations at the Danish Biological Station. These machines are being built by a competent and responsible house in Illinois, whose name and address may be obtained by writing the State Natural History Survey, Urbana, Illinois. One machine is already in successful operation at the Illinois Biological Station, and a second is being made for another Illinois institution.

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#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE Lord Strathcona legacy to Yale University, which amounts to about \$600,000 will